

LONG ISLAND FORUM



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**THE
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Published Monthly at
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FOR LONG ISLANDERS EVERYWHERE
 Entered as second-class matter May 31, 1947, at the
 post office at Amityville, New York, under the Act of
 March 3, 1879.

Tel. AMityville 4-0554

PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor
Contributing Editors
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East Marion Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of East Marion, in Southold Town, has an interesting history. It was two years before the start of the War of 1812 that a very few local residents of what was then called Rocky Point organized and began meeting in private homes and occasionally in the school. In 1831 they and other Baptists from neighboring communities erected a small meeting house at the head of the North road in Greenport, this being the only Baptist church east of Southold. There was considerable opposition to the movement and frequently when they met to hold baptisms in the bay, they found that dead dogs and sheep had been thrown into the water.

The group expanded, however, and in 1845 thirty-four members who resided in East Marion left the Greenport Church and organized separately at the home of Benjamin Clark. These thirty-four pioneers included the following Clarks: Charles, James F., Daniel E., Benjamin Jr., William, Lucy, Hannah, Sarah and Caroline; also John O. and Mary Terry, W. O. and Hannah Winters, Jonathan F. Latham, Noah G., Charlotte, Polly, Clarinda and Charlotte M. Beebe, Charles and Sophie Brooks, William and Bethiah Robards, Catherine and Dezhiah Rackett, Mariet Tuthill, Betsy King, Susanna Edwards, Emily Wiggins, Emeline Griffing, Bethiah Sherrill, Mahitable Ryan and Mary Hempstead.

In 1846 these East Marion Baptists united with a still smaller group of local Methodists to build a common meeting house on a lot purchased from George Tuthill for \$25. The first Baptist service was held therein in July 1847, the first pastor being the Rev. James Squires and the first Deacons Benjamin Clark and Jonathan F. Latham. The Baptists eventually bought out the Methodists and took full title to the meeting house which had cost \$800. It was a small square building surmounted by a diminutive square spire, without

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Late Celebrities in Holy Cross

IN the middle of July, 1849, James Eagan, superintendent of a cemetery in name only, stood with a scythe clearing in the rye a place to bury the corpse of Michael Moran, who had been a worker on the extensive Flatlands farm of the wealthy Cortel-you family. He was interrupted by Mr. Vanderveer, a prominent Brooklynite, who asked, "What are you cutting that rye for?" Superintendent Eagan's laconic reply, "To plant a better crop," was a prediction, the truth to which the years have attested. Today in its crowded ground of some sixty acres, many of Long Island's celebrated sons of Catholic faith lie interred in Holy Cross Cemetery. Some of them lived out on the island as well as in Brooklyn.

"Diamond Jim" Brady (1856-1917) died in sleep of a heart attack on the night of April 13, 1917 in an Atlantic City apartment, for which he paid \$1,000 weekly rental and from the glass-enclosed veranda of which he had daily watched the crowds saunter along the Boardwalk. His purchase for \$6,500 of a pair of rose-diamond studded spectacles for his dog had created a sensation at the resort. His diamonds and other precious stones were distributed among thirty-three friends, ten benevolent institutions were left \$10,000 apiece, but the bulk of his estate was bequeathed to the N. Y. Hospital to establish a urological institute.

Terry McGovern (1880-1918), called in his time "the greatest little man of the ring," held the world's bantamweight title from 1899 to 1900 and the featherweight title from 1900 to 1901. His fistic career ended in a knockout in the second round of an encounter on November 28, 1901 in Hartford, Connecticut, with Young Corbett, an unknown from Denver. McGovern resided for a time at Lake

Dr. Charles A. Huguenin

Ronkonkoma and at Amityville where he played on the local baseball teams.

Frank Fogarty (1879-1925), "the Dublin Minstrel," won theatrical acclaim with mirth-provoking Irish stories about O'Brien, Kerrigan and Casey, which he told in a crisp, dry brogue. He was W. K. Vanderbilt's favorite entertainer and visited at Vanderbilt's Idle Hour estate at Oakdale. Upon the celebration in 1915 of his twenty-fifth anniversary in the theatre, he was the highest salaried storyteller on the stage.

William Russell Grace (1832-1904) ran away from school in Ireland at fourteen to become twice Democratic mayor of New York City and organizer of the leading American firm in South and Central American trade. Many Long Islanders have been associated with his enterprises.

Walter Peck McCaffray (1888-1935), head of a New York Stock Exchange firm that bore his name, was for the last five years of his life a member of the Board of

Governors of the New York Curb Exchange.

Philip Dwyer (1844-1917), noted turfman, President of the Queens County Jockey Club, and Founder and President of the Brooklyn Jockey Club, was the last link of the Dwyer Confederacy, which with his brother, Michael F. Dwyer (1837-1906), was one of the most potent factors in the racing world nearly a century ago. The Dwyer brothers owned, besides Hindoo, the Kentucky Derby winner in 1881, other noted horses including Rhadamanthus, Charley Gorham, Bramble, and Luke Blackburn. The Dwyers frequently visited August Belmont's horse farm at Babylon.

Peter J. Hamill (1886-1930) succeeded Alfred E. Smith in 1916 as member of the New York State Assembly. Only two weeks before his death on January 12, 1930 while undergoing an emergency appendectomy, he had been appointed minority leader in the Assembly.

Matthew V. O'Malley (1877-1931), Brooklyn Heights' representative to the Seventy-second Congress, was una-



Gravestones of John H. McCooey and Terry McGovern

mously elected on February 17, 1931 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Representative John F. Quayle in the preceding Congress. Representative-elect O'Malley died of heart failure on May 26, 1931 before Congress assembled and never even took the oath of office.

Hugh McLaughlin (1827-1904), the "Sage of Willoughby Street," enjoyed the long-reign of any machine politician in the history of American politics. Although he resented the title "Boss," he was the first to whom it was applied as leader for forty years of the Brooklyn Democracy. He was active in promoting the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and of Prospect Park. His position as arbiter of Democratic Party politics in Brooklyn and throughout the island was unquestioned until just after the turn of the century when Senator Patrick H. McCarren wrested the leadership from him.

McLaughlin for many summers maintained political headquarters at the Great Peconic Bay House in South Jamesport. Here on weekends Brooklyn and Long Island Democratic bigwigs conferred with "the Boss". Pat McCarren was usually among them until the split which dethroned McLaughlin and made McCarren boss. The latter made the old Long Beach Hotel at Long Beach his headquarters and was there the Sunday morning it took fire and burned down in which catastrophe he heroically saved many lives.

Robert Furey (1803-1880), ex-alderman and ex-street commissioner, was McLaughlin's right-hand man in the 'seventies and the bearer of instructions to ward leaders regarding party policy until he incurred the anger of his friend and superior by looking longingly towards the state senatorship against the will of McLaughlin.

In the last years of McLaughlin's reign, James Shev-

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Topics of the Early 1800's

WHEN my cousin, Arthur Strong, gave me the family papers which had belonged to his father, I was, of course, delighted. Lately, a temporary trouble with my eyes has kept me from reading manuscripts. Now, a friend has kindly consented to read them to me, so I have been able to select some of them to use in the following tale.

In these days, when there is so much talk of juvenile delinquency and the lack of parental discipline, it is interesting to read in an old document what happened in the years when the rule was, if you spared the rod, you spoiled the child.

"Suffolk County. To any constable of the Town of Brookhaven in said county, Greeting. Whereas complaint hath been made before me, Thomas S. Strong Esquire, one of the justices assigned to keep the peace in and for the said county, upon the oath of Jesse Hulse of Brookhaven that Lewis D— and Joseph D—, sons of John D— of Brookhaven, aforesaid juniors did, on the eighth day of September instant, violently throw stones in and against the house of him, the said Jesse Hulse, at Brookhaven aforesaid. These are therefore, in the name of the people of the State of New York, to command you forthwith to apprehend the said Lewis D— and Joseph D— and bring them before me to answer unto the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to Law. Given under my hand and seal this ninth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen.

Thomas S. Strong, Justice."

Even the wisest men sometimes make mistakes when they try to predict the future.

Kate W. Strong

My great-great-uncle, Benjamin Strong, was known as a man of great business ability in New York City. In one case, his prophesy did not come true. My grandfather, Selah B. Strong, Esquire, was very much interested in the plans for building a railroad on Long Island. His Uncle Benjamin did not approve of the idea, as is shown by an extract from a letter from his uncle, dated February 22nd, 1834. "I sincerely hope and trust you have too much sound judgment to be taken in by the very silly project of running a railroad out on Long Island. . . . My advice to you is not to take \$1 of the stock. . . . The project is premature by at least 100 years." Grandfather lived to see the fulfillment of his hopes.

Great - great - grandmother, Mrs. Selah Strong, (Nancy of the clothesline) wrote a letter to her husband in the winter of 1800, in which she spoke of a terrible snowstorm on March 1st. She said that the boys had done all the barn work, "except a little flax." Perhaps someone can tell me what they had to do with the flax in winter. She also told that "Mr. Green

gave us a most excellent sermon last Saturday upon Mr. Washington's birthday. No tongue could have given him a finer character nor pictured him a greater man than he did. His text was in Luke the seventh chapter and the fifth verse: 'for He loveth our nation and He hath built us a Synagogue.'"

She gave him news of the family and the neighbors, and spoke of the oxen and other stock in the barn, and added teasingly that since he had not asked after her health, she wouldn't tell him. She was very anxious for news of her daughter, Margaret, who had married a cousin, Joseph Strong, and was living in Cooperstown, and whom Selah, a state senator, was going to visit on his way home from Albany. Of his trip from Albany by sleigh, and his safe arrival at daughter Margaret's, Mr. Strong wrote in his dairy still in existence.

In 1846, a treaty was concluded between the United States and Great Britain, making the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude the boundary between the United States and the British possessions, from the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the middle of the channel between Vancouver's Island and the



Old Time Wood Burner

mainland. What some people thought of this boundary between the United States and Canada is shown in the following letter written from Washington by Stephen Strong to my grandfather, the Hon. Selah B., Strong, June 28, 1846:

"I do not quite like the terms of settlement of the Oregon Question. I place a great deal of importance to Vancouver Island. It is said coal abounds there and not on the coast—an important consideration to steam navigation on the Pacific. If, however, we get the two California ports of San Francisco and Monterey, we can wait until time and the course of events secures to us the entire continent, north."

Such were the feelings, problems, and prophecies of some of our forebears.

Late Celebrities in Holy Cross

Continued From Page 84

lin (1842-?) was his chief lieutenant. "Shev," a powerful swimmer, had escaped through a porthole in the foundering frigate Congress when she was sunk by the rebel iron-clad Merrimac. As second in command to "the Boss," he was acknowledged as one of Brooklyn's "Big Four" in early Brooklyn political circles.

Another of the "Big Four" interred in Holy Cross is Sena-

tor John McCarty, who with McLaughlin, Shevlin, and McCarren controlled for many years the Democratic politics of Brooklyn. He was close to McLaughlin, who was his teacher in Brooklyn's Fifth Ward politics.

Another trusted friend of McLaughlin's was Congressman John M. Clancy (1837-1903), who was elected in 1878 a member of the Assembly and served three terms at Albany. Through McLaughlin's influence he received the Democratic nomination for Congress in 1890 and served in the 51, 52 and 53 Congresses. He shared with Shevlin, McCarren, and McCarty all the secrets of McLaughlin's Willoughby Street Organization and could approach the "Boss" when others could not.

"Uncle John" H. McCooey (1864-1934), Brooklyn "Boss" for twenty-five years, and one time summer resident of Westhampton Beach, as was his son, Judge McCooey, succeeded Patrick H. McCarren in 1909 to leadership of the Kings County Democratic Organization. He discarded the policy of his predecessors, McLaughlin and McCarren, to "Keep the Tiger (Tammany) across the Bridge" and converted his machine into Tammany's most effective ally.

Henry Hesterberg (1881-1950), former borough presi-

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Four Doctors of Jamaica

JAMAICA, Long Island, is now three hundred years old. My acquaintance with her has been for but little more than forty of them.

During World War I, Jamaica's outlying farms spread almost to our home in Flushing. Often we were awakened at four in the morning by the steady clapping of her farm horses drawing tarpaulin-covered wagons under our windows on their way to the College Point Ferry and city markets. Solid ranks of apartments and stores today replace Jamaica's farms.

Three of her four sons with whom we are concerned lived there in the town's very early rural years, the fourth at a later period.

John Jones was born in Jamaica in 1729 but spent most of his life away from his native village.

The son of Doctor Evan and Mary Stephenson Jones, he was of Welsh Quaker ancestry. His grandfather, Doctor Edward Jones, came to Pennsylvania in June 1682 where he married Mary Wynne, daughter of Doctor Thomas Wynne, who with his family came to Pennsylvania that year also on the ship *Welcome* with William Penn.

Having studied in a private school in New York, John began medical studies in Philadelphia under his uncle by marriage, Thomas Cadwalader.

He completed his education abroad; in London under William Hunter and Percival Pott; in Paris under Le Dran and Petit; he took other courses at Edinburgh and Leyden. In 1751 he was given a degree at the University of Rheims. His graduation thesis, "Observations on Wounds", was a fitting subject in view of his later life in the army.

In America again, he settled for a time in New York

Marion F. Overton

as an obstetrician and surgeon. A volunteer surgeon, he then served throughout the French and Indian war.

When the medical department in King's College (Columbia University today) was opened in 1767, Doctor Jones was professor of surgery and obstetrics. Later came our Revolution, and when the British held New York, he removed to Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin was one of his good friends.

Doctor Jones, I learned from the library of the New York Academy of Medicine, served as military surgeon under Sir William Johnson and following his death in 1774 throughout the Revolution in a like capacity.

When his army days were over, he still served General Washington. In volume VI of his *Life of Washington*, D. S. Freeman recorded that Doctor Jones, a "famous surgeon" in Philadelphia, in response to a call on May 12, 1790 arrived promptly at Mount Vernon to consult with three of Washington's attending physicians. The "serious form of pneumonia" was cured, and Doctor Jones later became Washington's family physician in Philadelphia.

From the "Dictionary of American Biography" I learn-

ed that John Jones is said to have been the first American Lithotomist as well as the author of the first surgical textbook in the American colonies.

He died June 23, 1791. In his commemorative address at the Centennial of the institution of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, S. Weir Mitchell alluded to the doctor's burial place: "John Jones was of the Society of Friends, and lies, since 1791, after their fashion, in a nameless grave under the maples of their Arch Street burial ground."

Our second physician, Daniel Menema, was born in Jamaica around 1754. I found nothing about his training as a surgeon, but Miss Doggett of the Queens Borough Public Library in Jamaica called my attention to the use he made of his profession for our country:

"Extract from: Heitman, F. B.—Historical register of officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution, April, 1775 to December, 1783. (Page 291) Menema, Daniel (N. Y.) Surgeon's Mate, 3d New York, 27th April, 1776; Surgeon 2d New York, 1st August, 1778, and served to June 1783."

According to L. C. Duncan, Doctor Menema served in the

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Country Doctor of the 1890's. Sketched by Bob Wolpert.

East Marion Baptist Church

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a bell. It did, however, have a gallery between the two doors.

This building was used until 1860 when, with a membership of little more than 75, B. Clark Tuthill proposed and successfully led a movement to enlarge the structure. Extensions were added to both sides and in back to accommodate a then modern pulpit. A spire and bell were also made possible mainly through the generosity of Daniel Clark. Finished and furnished, it was re-dedicated July 29, 1860, the pastor being the Rev. William D. Wright. The following year Orange Beebe's house was purchased for \$800 to provide a parsonage and in 1862 a melodian was acquired.

A generation later, in 1891, the

church was enlarged to provide suitable room for the choir and also for a pipe-organ which was the gift of the Ladies' Mite Society, the organist being Mary L. Furst. Another gift, the collection boxes, was made by W. C. Bahr, while B. C. Tuthill provided the fence in front of the church property and Milton Welch gave the hymnals and psalm books. In 1902 a new pipe-organ was installed, the gift of the choir.

Two years later Edmund T. Rackett, W. Halsey Wiggins and Frank J. Tuthill were chosen a building committee to supervise extensive reconstruction which developed into the present attractive edifice, dedicated June 1 and 2, 1905, under the pastorate of the Rev. Alexander F. Johnson. A new parsonage was shortly thereafter erected and it is worthy of note that on September 6, 1908, the mortgage on the church property was duly burned.

Edna A. Brown
East Marion

Note: The Forum welcomes brief sketches about Long Island

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Monumental Work

churches which have had an interesting past—and most have had. A good clear photo of the church, not more than 4 or 5 inches wide, should accompany sketch. Editor.

Colonial Banishment

Just prior to the banishment from Salem of Madame Deborah Moody, who founded the town of Gravesend in Kings County, L. I., a Boston Ecclesiastical Court on March 15, 1638 banished Anne Hutchinson who thereupon settled in Rhode Island. P.B.

Eugene O'Neill Wrote Here

Prior to the Second World War Eugene O'Neill, the famous playwright, occupied the Dr. Frank L. Babbott home on Eaton's Neck, near Northport, and did considerable writing there. H.P.H.

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Islip's Civil War Hero

John Tooker

FROM a news item about the funeral of Capt. David Ritchie at Islip on February 6, 1874 we learn of a Long Island man who played an important part in one of the stirring events of the Civil War. The funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church with Rev. Clark Lockwood officiating, and the church was so crowded that latecomers had difficulty in finding seats. Capt. Ritchie was a highly respected member of the community and liked by everyone. Members of Meridian Lodge, F. & A.M. who had done all in their power to ease the burden of the widow and 12-year-old son who survived him, attended the service. A Masonic service, held at the grave, was conducted by Rev. Stephen Haff, assisted by G. W. Clock, Master, and Past Masters George B. Howell and A. S. Haff.

Capt. Ritchie, who was 38 years of age at the time of his death, had an interesting career in the United States Revenue Service. In January 1861 he was a quartermaster on the revenue cutter *Louis McLean* commanded by Capt. Breshwood, and anchored off the City of New Orleans. It was an anxious time for government officials in Washington when many Southern men in the armed services were resigning and turning over government property in their charge to the Confederates. Convinced that Capt. Breshwood was about to surrender the cutter to the Confederates, Ritchie, who had charge of the vessel's flag locker, wrapped the colors around his body, jumped overboard, and swam ashore. He made his way to Washington and delivered them to the proper authorities, and for that act he was at once promoted to lieutenant by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Lt. Ritchie continued to serve in the Revenue Depart-

ment of the Treasury, and in due time was promoted to Captain. He saved many people from watery graves, and once received the thanks of Congress for the rescue of nineteen passengers from the wreck of the steamer *Metis*.

Early in January 1861 President Buchanan, at the insistence of the moneyed interests of the eastern part of the country, appointed John Adams Dix as Secretary of the Treasury. During his short term of service Dix lived at the White House, and when President Lincoln named Salmon P. Chase as Secretary he commissioned Dix a Major-General.

Soon after taking office, Dix sent a special Treasury agent to New Orleans to prevent, if possible, the surrender of government property to the Confederates. Capt.

Breshwood haughtily refused to obey the instructions from Secretary Dix, and the agent wired the Secretary for further orders. The telegram Dix sent him in reply has become famous. It was as follows: Treasury Dept., Jan. 29, 1861.

Tell Lieut. Caldwell to arrest Capt. Breshwood, assume command of the Cutter and obey the order I gave through you. If Capt. Breshwood after arrest undertakes to interfere with the command of the Cutter tell Lieut. Caldwell to consider him a mutineer, and treat him accordingly. If any man attempts to haul down the American flag shoot him on the spot.

John A. Dix

Secretary of the Treasury. General Dix served with distinction in several political offices. He was a United States Senator before he became a Cabinet officer, and

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The Islip Presbyterian Church

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Mr. Moses' Book

Long Islanders are not the only ones who will want to read Long Islander Robert Moses' book, "Working for the People" (Harper & Brothers). Nor are New Yorkers in whose city and state most of his work has been done. It is our belief, based on the author's wide-spread reputation for unselfish performance of public service, that a good many people in other states and in other countries will want to read about how one individual could have built so many parks, parkways, causeways and such things in much less, we hope, than a single lifetime.

Most Long Islanders have known for many years that Mr. Moses is a living proof of the theory, usually advanced by dreamers and if accepted at all, generally with a grain of salt, that a public servant can achieve great things for the people without benefit of partisan or other political backing. As a matter of fact a number of instances here on Long Island could be cited in which he achieved what he set out to do in the public cause in spite of a good deal of political opposition. We can recall not a single instance in which, when he sounded the trumpet for another new project, that it wasn't a solo.

Besides being, as Herbert Bayard Swope put it in his foreword to the book a "Master Builder", Mr. Moses has the knack, not always given to builders, of telling things in an interesting way, due in part to his characteristic frankness. One doesn't have to be a student or informed in public affairs to get a kick out of what the author tells and the way he tells it in this book.

It is a Must for everyone who believes in public improvements and would like to know how even the "impossible" ones can be brought about.

Gift From the Sky

Julian Smith's story "The Island's Majestic Osprey" (Jan. Forum) reminds me of an experience I had at North Long Branch, N. J. Having spent the night at a home there I was awakened about daybreak by seagulls and other birds offshore at the fishpounds from which the fishermen were transferring the catch to their boats.

I noted an osprey flying off with a fish whose great size was giving the hawk difficulty. As the osprey disappeared over our house I heard a crash on the porch roof outside my window. There was a four-pound bluefish and all I had to do was lift the screen and grab it.

Continued next page

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Needless to say, it made a very nice dinner.

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Name of Hymn Composer

In reply to the inquiry of Mrs. Miner C. Hill, Oyster Bay, in the March Forum, the hymn entitled "It Is Christmas Day By the River," was John Washbourn, son of the pastor of Christ Church, Oyster Bay, the Rev. Henry Washbourn. It was first played by the organist Frank Spicer, sometime between 1890-94, during the same year that the interior of the church was decorated by Elbert Tappan and William Getto.

At the same time, following the suggestion of Mrs. Anista, a door was placed at the front of the church for the choir to pass through, bearing the inscription: "Christ said 'I am the door and the way.'"

Benjamin T. Ebbets
Copiague

Note: Mr. Ebbets, a long time resident of Copiague, spent his earlier years at Oyster Bay and tells some interesting stories of his acquaintance with President Theodore Roosevelt.

Sterling's Dad Also Pranked

Your recent reference to George Sterling brings to mind the series of pranks that he and his boyhood chum, Ralph Johnson, played in Sag Harbor many years ago, the most sensational of which was placing a pirate flag on top of the 169-foot high Presbyterian steeple, known as the Old Whalers' Church.

The boys were aided and abetted by Sterling's father, Dr. George A. Sterling, who enjoyed their performances, and used them to play annoying tricks on persons he delighted to tease.

George Sterling later became a gifted poet in California (state poet laureate), his masterpiece, "The Testimony of the Suns," receiving the highest praise.

Roosevelt Johnson was a lineal descendant of the first white child born on Long Island (of Dutch parentage, at Gravesend), and was related to the Hudson River Roosevelts. He became a solid and successful businessman in California.

C. R. Sleight
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Note: Mr. Sleight is a native Sag Harborite, of one of its old whaling families.

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Home of Stimson's Grandparents

The photograph of Nestledown was taken by George W. Winans, Jamaica historian, in 1931 shortly before it was demolished. It was erected in 1854 by Thomas Wheeler on the south side of South street, a short distance west of Farmers avenue in what is now Hollis. Mr. Winans, well known for his history of the Jamaica Presbyterian Church, supplied us with the photograph and also with the following information.

Thomas and Candace Thurber

Wheeler were the grandparents of the Hon. Henry L. Stimson who maintained his estate Highhold at West Hills, Huntington, from 1903 until his death in 1950. His mother, a daughter of the Wheelers, was born in 1845 in Brooklyn and in 1866 married Lewis Atterbury Stimson who later became an eminent surgeon.

Nestledown in its heyday was the rendezvous of writers and artists as Mrs. Wheeler was both an artist and author, and her husband, besides being a successful



Nestledown, 1854-1932

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businessman, was one of the founders of New York's Academy of Design. Among those who visited Nestledown during its early years were William Cullen Bryant of Roslyn, James Russell Lowell and Mark Twain.

Henry Lewis Stimson, the Wheelers grandson, was born in New York in 1867, graduated from Yale in 1888, was admitted to the bar in 1891 and in 1906 was appointed U. S. District Attorney by President Theodore Roosevelt.

From 1911 to 1913 he served as Secretary of State under President Taft, saw active duty abroad as a Colonel in the First World War, was Governor-General of the Philippines 1927-29 and President Hoover's Secretary of State 1929-33. From 1940 to 1945 he was Secretary of War under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and under President Truman from April to September in 1945.

Congratulations on the Forum and the work it does in publicizing and preserving Long Island history. Dorothy Horton McGee, Roslyn Heights, (author of "Famous Signers of the Declaration").

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Late Celebrities in Holy Cross

Continued from page 86

dent of Brooklyn, rejected the office of Kings County Democratic Leader after the death of McCooley in 1934 because he wanted to take care of his constituents in Flatbush, to whom he endeared himself for over twenty-five years. He planned the demolition of the Fulton Street "el," the elimination of the grade crossing on the Atlantic Avenue division of the Long Island Railroad, the completion of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza, and scores of broader highways and large parks.

Barth Cronin (1858-1933), state senator from 1909 to 1913, had long been associated with National Committeeman John H. McCooley in building up the Kings County Democratic Organization before he turned all his attention to construction. His contracting

company helped build the New York Produce Exchange Building, the Sea Beach Railway Station at Coney Island, and the breakwater of Manhattan Beach.

Luke D. Stapleton (1869-1923), Justice of the Supreme Court of New York 1908-1922, was long regarded as among the most brilliant members of the Brooklyn Bar Association, of which he was elected head on May 12, 1922. He was a frequent week-end visitor at Sachem Charles F. Murphy's Democratic powwows in Canoe Place Inn, and at times held court at Mineola and at Riverhead.

John J. Kiernan (1845-?) installed in each of his customers' offices a new instrument called a "ticker," and from this beginning grew Kiernan's Wall Street Financial News Bureau. As state senator in 1882 he introduced bills dealing with the exemption of call loans from the

usury law, the appointment of receiver-generals over funds of insolvent corporations, the improvement of ferry facilities in Manhattan, the exemption from taxation of vessels engaged in inland commerce in New York State, etc.

James McMahon (1831-?) was President of the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank from 1892-1906. He also served as officer at one time or another of many civic and banking institutions: e.g. St. Mary's Hospital, the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Brooklyn Board of Education, the State Association of Savings Banks, the Irish Emigrant Society, the New York Produce Exchange Bank, the People's Trust Company, the Realty Associates in Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, etc.

For nearly a quarter of

Continued on Page 95

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A New Celebrity in Fashion Design

Lovely and wearable clothes have been the open-sesame to success for Luis Estevez, the fashion designer not yet beyond his mid-twenties who last month received the tribute of being made a partner in the New York firm of Grenelle-Estevez,

Ltd. A former student of the Traphagen School of Fashion in New York, this personable and gifted young man has a showroom so filled with buyers when he opens a new collection that it is difficult to gain entrance. His name has become more and more familiar to the women who, in increasing num-

bers, bought the clothes he created. Then a series of displays devoted to Estevez alone in the four Fifth Avenue windows of Lord and Taylor's New York store introduced his high talents for originality and impeccable good taste to those who shop and stroll the Avenue.

Estevez fashions are distinguished for their truly chic simplicity whether in slim line or billowing bouffant silhouette. The floral silk gown pictured here which he lent to Traphagen School, his alma mater, for display is currently on view in the reception room at Traphagen, 1680 Broadway (at 52nd Street), New York. Here visitors are always welcome. They may see not only this spectacular gown but many other unique exhibits of fashion design and illustration in the reception hall and the school's galleries.

Islip's Hero

Continued from page 89

Minister to France from 1866 to 1869. In the fall of 1872 he was nominated for Governor of New York by the Republicans although he was a Democrat, and won the election by a safe majority, serving until the end of 1874 when he was succeeded by Samuel J. Tilden. Dix was 74 years of age at the time of his election as Governor. He was a Vestryman of Trinity Church, New York, where the Rev. Morgan Dix, his son, became Rector in 1862. Gen. Dix had a country home at Westhampton Beach, which eventually became his year-round voting residence.



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Late Celebrities in Holy Cross

Continued from page 93

a century Patrick Campbell (1827-1908) headed the Brooklyn Police Department. His brother, Felix (1829-1902), started as a printer's devil with the Brooklyn Eagle at twelve years of age. In 1884 the latter was elected to Congress from Brooklyn's Second District, and after four terms, he declined a fifth nomination. He secured for Brooklyn her Post Office Building on Washington Street and started the movement for the erection of the monument to the British prison ship martyrs in Fort Greene Park. At his death he was President of the People's Trust Company of Brooklyn and a director of several banking institutions.

James Ryan (1842-1895), erstwhile commissioner of charities, fire, and buildings, had learned the trade of marble cutter in Blissville, Long Island and owned the marble works opposite Holy Cross Cemetery. A leading member of Holy Cross Church, he presented the church with a magnificent baptismal font of marble and onyx.

It was among other reasons to procure an office for his warm, personal friend, James Ryan, that Alderman Patrick J. Shannon (1838-1878), an Independent Democrat representing the Fifth Ward, won notoriety. His unexpected support of the Republicans in the election of November 1877 caused an upheaval that turned a number of entrenched Democratic officials out of office and made Republicans and dissatisfied

Democrats their successors.

Reverend Charles Constantine Pise (1801-1866) was the only Catholic priest to serve as chaplain of the United States Senate. Nominated for this post by Henry Clay, he was duly elected December 11, 1832, despite intense nativist opposition in the press and pulpit to his creed and foreign honors. In 1849 he built the Church of St. Charles Borromeo in Brooklyn, of which he was pastor until his death on May 26, 1866. He was an ardent temperance worker and a friend of the Irish immigrant.

Monsignor John L. Belford (1861-1951) was pastor of the Church of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord in Brooklyn for forty-six years, from 1905 until his death at ninety in 1951. In 1895 he was sent to Oyster Bay, where for four years he worked as pastor of St. Dominic's Church, rehabilitating a failing parish. He replaced the old Oyster Bay church with a new stone structure and a rectory, and incidentally won the friendship of Theodore Roosevelt. He was a militant foe of prohibition, civic graft and corruption, the Ku-Klux Klan, women's dress during the short-skirt era, and those who threw rice at weddings.

Reverend Eugene McSherry (1840-1879) and Reverend William S. Kirby (1865-1902) were even more closely associated with the Church on Long Island. Father McSherry,

pastor for nine years of Our Lady of Loretto in Hempstead, fainted in the confessional on Saturday and died on Monday, April 21, 1879. Father Kirby was the popular young pastor of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Southampton, and his death of Bright's disease at thirty-seven shocked the community in which, regardless of creed, he was universally beloved and respected.

Monsignor William B. Farrell (1867-1930), pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Brooklyn for the last thirteen years of his life, won as a tribute to his work on a succession of Long Island charges at Riverhead, Freeport, Uniondale, Franklin Square, and Hempstead, the title "Builder of Churches."

Monsignor Edward J. McGolrick (1857-1938) for fifty years was pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. He built St. Cecilia's from a small frame house and a shed alongside it.

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Monsignor John T. Woods (1858-1924) was for thirty years rector of Holy Cross Church in Brooklyn and one of the most prominent of

Brooklyn's clergymen. A bronze statue on a marble base by Gaetano Frederici stands in front of Holy Cross as a tribute to the pastoral and civic work of this popular Flatbush priest.

Reverend Edward J. O'Reilly (1826-1889) did missionary work in Africa for several years until sunstroke impaired his vision. Appointed pastor of St. Stephen's Church,

Brooklyn, in 1873, he replaced a little wooden church on Carroll Street with one of the largest and most ornate temples in Brooklyn, topped by a Cross of Bohemian glass illuminated with seven hundred lights. In 1875 general illumination by electricity was not dreamed of, and the lighting of the Cross filled the streets every night with admiring crowds to gaze in wonder at

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Colonel Francis S. Belton (1790?-1861) was a distinguished soldier and scholar, Governor of Puebla de Los Angeles, and Lieutenant-Governor of Mexico. He distinguished himself in the defense of Fort Erie in 1813 and in the capture of the City of Mexico in the Mexican War. For gallantry at Contreras and Chorubusco he was brevetted colonel.

The interment of Colonel James Monroe (1820-1862) of the 22nd Regiment, who died at Harper's Ferry in Virginia on July 31, 1862 serving his country in the Civil War, is marked by a marble Cross, which was erected by the officers and members of his regiment as a tribute to "a brave soldier, an efficient officer, and an accomplished gentleman."

Thomas E. Davis (1837-1906), veteran of Company B, 6th Regiment Wisconsin, died at sixty-nine years of age on December 30, 1906 of wounds incurred at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

In the Olive Section of Holy Cross Cemetery below a twenty-foot granite monument, topped by a fireman manning a hose, rest three of Brooklyn's heroic firemen who paid the full price of valor.

Thirty-three-year old Hugh McGowan fell through a portion of the roof and crashed head first upon half-burned debris twenty feet below in a fire at No. 608 Seventeenth Street near Tenth Avenue on Friday, December 4, 1891.

Twenty-nine-year-old John F. Spaulding fell from a perch on burned jute butts on the top floor of Harbecks' Storehouse #3, located on Furman Street in Columbia Heights, when it burst into flames on Saturday night, November 12, 1892. He was probably the victim of suffocation because his body, found Sunday afternoon lodged between bales of cotton on the third floor, was not badly burned.

Thirty-three-year-old Christopher D. Boyne was buried beneath the rafters in the

blaze of a dilapidated car shed, owned by the New York and Sea Beach Railroad, at the foot of 65 Street in Brooklyn on March 21, 1901.

Below a ten-foot granite monument, topped by a praying nun, in another part of the cemetery lie interred the remains of Battalion Chief William J. Walsh, who lost his life in the Equitable fire on January 9, 1912. The forty-three-year-old chief led a volunteer group of fourteen firefighters as they searched the blazing eighteen-million-dollar Equitable Life Assurance Society Building at 120 Broadway, that had been one of the show buildings of New York.

In one of the St. Mark's plots of Holy Cross Cemetery is a monument erected by citizens of Brooklyn as a tribute to the heroism of a teenager. In the late afternoon of December 11, 1877, seventeen-year-old James Donlon vainly tried to rescue an old lady from the path of the Long Island steam car "Bedford,"

towing two passenger cars, at the gateless crossing on Atlantic and Grand avenues, Brooklyn.

Four Doctors of Jamaica

Continued from page 87

2nd New York Regiment under Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt from 1775-1776.

Soon after the Revolution Doctor Menema was practicing his profession in Jamaica as well as entering into the activities of that community.

February 12, 1794 he was appointed Sheriff of Queens County. He is listed in "Queens County in Olden Times" by Onderdonk as a "pew-holder or contributor to the support of Grace Church, Jamaica, from 1803 to 1809." Mr. Onderdonk notes too that Doctor Menema was a subscriber for building an academy at Jamaica. This was the historic Union Hall, the third academy built on Long Island.

October 1, 1806 Daniel Menema was elected the first

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president of the Queens County Medical Society at a meeting of the practitioners of Physics and Surgery at the Court House. In 1899 that society became the Queens-Nassau Medical Society. January 1, 1921 the name changed to the one it bears today, Medical Society of Queens County. It is one of the oldest medical societies in our country.

For two hundred years Jamaica had no hospital. In the Long Island Press, June 1, 1952 Doctor Henry I. Fineberg in a short account of Daniel Menema listed the fees that doctors charged in his time. I quote a few: "Call in vicinity 1 shilling; more than a mile 3 shillings; all night visits 9 shillings; night visit with castor oil and paregoric 10 shillings." Dr. Fineberg is Director of Queens General Hospital.

The Long Island Farmer, February 28, 1865 in its column, "Queens County in Olden Times" traced the years back to the death of Daniel Menema, January 20, 1810.

"Dr. Daniel Menema of Jamaica, aged fifty-six, died at seven in the morning, and Joseph Morris, the barber and hair-dresser, (whose wife cooked and washed for the doctor) died at seven in the evening." It describes the doctor as a "large, handsome man and proud of his person." After the war he was a member of the Cincinnati. He was reputed an able physician and said to be kind and liberal to the poor. Dr. Shelton succeeded to his practice."

When Doctor Menema was past his prime, he was fortunate to have the assistance of Doctor Nathan Shelton, not strictly a son of Jamaica, for until he was twenty-two he had lived in his native Connecticut. But he served Ja-

maica in one capacity or another until an old man. When Doctor Menema died, Shelton naturally took over his practice until his own death, July 25, 1864, at the age of eighty. The former Shelton Avenue, now 89th Avenue, in Jamaica was undoubtedly named for him or his son, Doctor John Dundas Shelton.

John was born in Jamaica July 11, 1816. His early education was at Union Hall Academy. In 1836 he graduated from Princeton College. Then came a year at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, with two in Philadelphia where he finished his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1840.

An able student of both Latin and Greek, he was said to be "a man of fine literary taste which exclusive devotion to professional duties prevented him from indulging to the extent of his wishes."

December 5, 1853 he and Latham M. Jaggard were chosen to organize a school for colored children, a long unfulfilled need in Jamaica. Through their efforts a school was opened in the Methodist Church on Washington Street. Free schools were not established until 1854. When they were, Doctor Shelton was one of the board members.

When he died December 10, 1862 in his 47th year, The Long Island Farmer recorded his "painful illness, from inflammation and congestion of the lungs."

On December 30th, 1862, that same paper devoted the five columns of its front page not only to the sermon delivered in the Presbyterian Church by the Rev. D. Oakey but also to his account of the doctor's unselfish life.

Doctor Shelton had become

a member of this church in 1832. When he died both he and his father who outlived him were ruling elders, and he was a member of the board of trustees.

An earnest Bible student, he was even more concerned for his patients' souls than for their bodies.

But their bodies too were uppermost in his mind. With deep sympathy he suffered with them. "He became, in some sort, a part of them—they were at all times in his mind, heart and prayers."

Endearing himself through his love for the unfortunate, "I have known him," said Mr. Oakey, "to carry beds; to supply provisions, to give medicine and personal attendance, and assist in funeral services, when he knew he would not receive one cent." In addition Mr. Oakey spoke of riding "with him to visit his patients when from the pain he himself suffered he scarce knew how to retain his seat in the carriage."

In a very broad way John Dundas Skelton merited Mr. Oakey's tribute: "He was what Paul calls Luke, 'a beloved physician.'"

Boston Massacre

The so-called Boston Massacre occurred on Boston's King Street on the evening of March 5, 1770 when British troops slew five Americans. M.M.W.

Evans

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Old LIRR Signal Towers

The writer is in the process of
compiling an all-time station and
tower history, giving exact loca-
tions and names of stations and
towers and seeks the following
data:

Around 1900, signal towers were
numbered, rather than carrying
call letters as in later years, and
now names. The towers on Mon-
tauk Branch from L. I. City to
Jamaica and on Main Line from
L. I. City to Winfield Junction
have been accounted for, the
writer having their numbers.

What is wanted is "numbers" of
any towers that readers of the
Forum may remember.

William D. Slade
P. O. Box 369
Tabor, N. J.

North Shore Tomcods

Have just finished reading Julian
Smith's fine article on frost-fishing.
He certainly does good work. Tell
him that we Cold Spring "Clam-
diggers" only know about tomcods
on the north shore; but that we
don't "bell" our fish and sit in a
shanty out of the cold, as do the
Flushing fishermen(?)

We find our tomcods along the
docks, bulkheaded waterfronts, and
stone jetties where the sluggish
fish are poking in and out of the
many crevices. With a small barbed
trident on a long light shaft (the
head held just under the surface
of the water) we select our tom-
cods and spear 'em!

Andrus T. Valentine
Cold Spring Harbor

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